

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00376 050830 Z

11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-13 RSR-01 /136 W

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R 011015 Z JUL 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 437

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 376

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, IN, IR

SUBJECT: INDIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ

1. INDIAN MILITARY ATTACHE COL. SURI TOLD ME JUNE 25 THAT WASHINGTON POST HAD PUBLISHED STORY ON OFFICIAL TEHRAN PROTEST TO NEW DELHI OVER SECRET INDIAN MILITARY TRAINING FOR IRAQ. COL. SURI SAID THERE WERE ONLY 14 INDIAN PILOT INSTRUCTORS HERE, DOWN FROM ABOUT 26 TWO YEARS AGO. THIS IS ONLY TRAINING PERSONNEL IN COUNTRY AND IT IS 10 YEAR OLD PROGRAM. HE THOUGHT TEHRAN PROTEST WAS TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM MUCH MORE SUBSTANTIAL IRANIAN-PAKISTANI MILITARY COOPERATION ABOUT WHICH INDIA HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN.

2. INDIAN EMBOFF NAIRAN GAVE ME FULLER ACCOUNT OF IRAQI- INDIAN RELATIONSHIP ON JUNE 27. HE SAID INDIA HAD NOT ENGAGED IN ANY STRATEGIC DISCUSSION WITH IRAQ AND SOVIETS HAD NEVER SUGGESTED THEY DO SO. HOWEVER, SOVIETS HAVE ENCOURAGED BOTH SIDES TO EXPAND ECONOMIC TIES; E. G. INDIA HAS SUBMITTED BID ON BASRA STEEL MILL

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00376 050830 Z

AND SOVIETS PRESSING IRAQIS TO ACCEPT INDIAN BID AND INSURING IRAQ THAT SOVIETS WILL SUPPLY ANY PART OF PROJECT THAT INDIANS CANNOT SUPPLY. HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER SOVIETS HAD URGED IRAQIS TO MAKE LONG TERM OIL PURCHASE AGREEMENT, BUT MENTIONED THAT COMMUNIST MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ SHARIF HAD PLAYED A ROLE. NAIRAN SAID PRESIDENT AL- BAKR HAS STRONG INTEREST IN GREATER TIES WITH INDIA AND RECENT VISIT OF IRAQI MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND HEAD OF ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION HISHAM AL- SHAWI WAS AT BAKR'S REQUEST.

3. NAIRAN ALSO CONFIRMED THAT ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF SHANSHAL HAD RECENTLY VISITED INDIA. HE SAID, HOWEVER, INDIA WAS SUPPLYING ONLY SMALL ARMS TO IRAQ. IT HAD NOT AGREED TO FURNISH MIG SPARE PARTS. IN ANY CASE, TO DO SO WOULD REQUIRE AUTHORIZATION FROM USSR.

4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS FROM ABOVE THAT RUSSIAN ROLE IN STRENGTHENING IRAQI- INDIAN RELATIONSHIP IS STRONGER THAN PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED BY USINT. WE WOULD WELCOME NEW DELHI'S ASSESSMENT. LOWRIE

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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